



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICER IN CHARGE
FLEET NUMERICAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY DETACHMENT
FEDERAL BUILDING
151 PATTON AVENUE
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-5014

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3140
Ser 013
30 Jan 2002

From: Officer in Charge, Fleet Numerical Meteorology and
Oceanography Detachment Asheville

Subj: UPPER AIR OBSERVATIONS

Ref: (a) NAVMETOCCOMINST 3140.1K


1. Your assistance is requested in correcting a problem that has been growing increasingly worse over the last few years. The simple fact is that very few of the upper air soundings taken each month are properly transmitted and submitted for archive. This detachment receives a smaller quantity of upper air observations with each passing year. Information recently made available also indicates that Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center receives only one or two soundings a day from the fleet for model assimilation. The need for collecting and reporting environmental observations has been a long established requirement by the DoD and DoN. Besides immediate utilization to support real-time operations by on-scene personnel, many activities use observations taken by the fleet as input to perform their own missions and functions. Failure to properly transmit and archive meteorological information affects all of us. Where models are concerned, you get what you give. The more data that we submit, the better quality model output we get back.

In addition, last year, I was unable to answer several requests for recent upper air observations in areas where the fleet has been very active because the data was never sent in for archive. One request came from a Mobile Environmental Team (MET), looking for a sounding they had taken, but unfortunately forgot to send to us. The data was lost by the MET and deleted by the ship. Needless to say, I could not provide what I had never received.

2. Reference (a) Chapter 5 provides guidance for the transmittal of meteorological records. The preferred method of receipt for upper air observations at this detachment is on a 3.5-inch floppy disk. Paper copies of upper air observations must undergo the costly and time consuming process of manual conversion to digital format, and therefore should only be sent as a last resort.

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3. Your assistance in ensuring the timely transmittal and archive of all meteorological data will be greatly appreciated. Questions or comments concerning this issue may be directed to me at (828) 271-4232 or (828) 252-7865, facsimile (828) 271-4672 or e-mail at: Navy.Fnmod@noaa.gov.



G. T. MOODY

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